

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SOPN OVIP RO
SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHER'S VISIT TO ROMANIA

REF: STATE 146110

1. AS WE FEARED, ROMANIANS APPEAR TO HAVE MUFFED OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS MRS. GRAHAM AND HER THREE POST/NEWSWEEK JOURNALIST COMPANIONS THROUGH THEIR HAM-HANDED SCHEDULING TACTICS AND A PROGRAM (MINUS CEAUSESCU MEETING) BETTER SUITED TO A VISIT BY A LAME-DUCK CONGRESSMAN.

2. FIRST DAY INCLUDED SUCH SHOW STOPPERS AS A VISIT TO VILLAGE MUSEUM AND MEETINGS WITH FAIRLY LOW LEVEL JOURNALISTS, WRITERS AND TELEVISION BUREAUCRATS. GROUP HAD TWO AND HALF HOUR BRIEFING AT CHARGE'S RESIDENCE OVER LUNCH AND PROCEEDED TO WASTE MOST OF REMAINDER OF AFTERNOON WAITING FOR ROMANIANS TO DECIDE WHAT CAME NEXT. THAT EVENING THEY HAD LONG MEETING WITH DEPRIMIN PATAN WHOM THEY ALL SUBSEQUENTLY TERMED AS MOST IMPRESSIVE ROMANIAN THEY MET. MALITA HOSTED DINNER THAT NIGHT.

3. SECOND DAY INCLUDED VISIT TO NEAR-BY VILLAGE AND A FARM COOPERATIVE. GROUP WAS PROMISED THAT A MEETING WITH A "PERSON-ALITY" MIGHT BE ARRANGED LATE THAT DAY, BUT NO ONE WISHED FURTHER
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IDENTIFY WHOM MYSTERY PERSON MIGHT BE. FINALLY WORD CAME THROUGH THAT CEAUSESCU WOULD RECEIVE THEM.

4. HOAGLAND AND JENKINS (NEWSWEEK ROME BUREAU CHIEF) SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD CHARGE THAT GROUP WAS NOT IMPRESSED BY CEAUSESCU'S PERFORMANCE. THEIR GENERAL DISENCHANTMENT WAS FURTHER EXACERBATED BY STRING OF PHONE CALLS FROM MALITA MORNING FOLLOWING CEAUSESCU'S

MEETING INSISTING THAT MEETING (WHICH WAS RECORDED BY PRIOR AGREEMENT) WAS NOT AN INTERVIEW BUT RATHER ONLY A CONVERSATION. NEITHER HOAGLAND OR JENKINS GOT POINT AS TO WHY MALITA WAS MAKING SUCH A FUSS BECAUSE WHEN THEY INDIVIDUALLY THREATENED TO KILL THEIR RESPECTIVE STORIES RATHER THAN SUBMIT TO ANY CENSORSHIP MALITA INSISTED THEY WERE ABSOLUTELY FREE TO FILE WHATEVER THEY WISHED.

5. COMMENT: ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS IN MEETINGS WITH MRS. GRAHAM AND COLLEAGUES CHARGE OFFERED TO INTERCEDE WITH GOR ON THEIR PROGRAM. ON BOTH OCCASIONS GROUP EXPRESSED APPRECIATION BUT PREFERRED TO LET ROMANIANS HANDLE AFFAIR IN THEIR OWN FASHION. INTERESTINGLY, AT NO TIME DID ANYONE EVER RAISE SUBJECT OF GOR UNHAPPINESS OVER "UNFAVORABLE" PRESS TREATMENT, EITHER IN THE POST OR ANY OTHER U.S. PUBLICATION. VIETS

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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